



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Executive Director's Report

AUGUST 2014

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Family Day at Evins

The Evins Regional Juvenile Correctional Facility conducted a Family Day on Saturday, July 26 and hosted 150 family members. Volunteers supplied the food and numerous groups set up informational stations, greatly contributing to the event's success. Staff and youth all rose to the occasion to make this special day enjoyable to our youth and their families. The McAllen Monitor was also there to memorialize the day with the story below.

From the McAllen Monitor:

Family Event Gives Families Chance to See Troubled Juveniles

by Lorenzo Zazueta

EDINBURG — On a hot and humid Saturday afternoon, families sat at white picnic tables enjoying grilled hot dogs, chips and cold sodas under rows of tents in a vast grassy area. They told jokes and family stories while a live band played upbeat Christian rock music in the background.



Photo by Delcia Lopez, McAllen Monitor

Gabriela Vasquez and her family walk with their 17 year old son during family day at Evins Juvenile Center in Edinburg Saturday July 26, 2014.

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But barbed-wire fences surrounded the families. The boys here wear khaki-colored pants and grey T-shirts that stood out against the palette of colors worn by family members and volunteers at Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg.

The volunteers sat at the tables with the families, updating them on their progress. Several different church groups provided mentors and counseling.

Boys at the facility had the opportunity to see family members that they haven't seen for several months or more.

In its fifth year, the "Connecting Youth, Family and Community Event" provided families the opportunity to be reunited with their kids — if only for a short while.

Donald Brooks Jr., who has worked at Evins for more than four years and is the Youth Facility Superintendent, said the event connects the family with outside resources, staff, volunteers and mentors.

"It's a way to have dialogue between parents and the staff," Brooks said. "It gives (parents) a chance to see us face-to-face, instead of over the phone and they feel a lot more comfortable talking to us in person, with their kid right there."

Brooks said he wants families to be involved with their kids so they are better prepared for the transition back to the environment that may have caused them to end up behind bars in the first place.

Lisa Mulato, 38, of Brownsville, drove an hour to visit her 16-year-old son.

Mulato said it's a great opportunity for her and her family and is grateful to the facility for the opportunity.

"He was a different person before and now talking to him he seems more motivated, he has plans for when he gets out," Mulato said.

Two other volunteers, Delores Morris, 55, and Gracie Diaz, 42, both of McAllen, have been volunteering for more than five years and said they started volunteering through their church.

They said they're there to encourage the boys to move on from their past mistakes.

"Try to motivate them, I'm not here to judge them, we've all made mistakes and we want them to realize that they can move past this," Diaz said. ■

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Pilot at Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex

TJJD rolled out the PBIS pilot on Success Dorm at the Ron Jackson facility the week of May 26-30, 2014. Training was conducted on the PBIS model to Success dorm staff from all three shifts on May 29 and PBIS was implemented on the dorm on June 16. Preliminary data has revealed reductions in youth incident rates and security referrals. Additionally, campus and Success dorm administrators are reporting improvements in both the staff and youth culture since PBIS has been implemented. The PBIS Coordinator, along with the consultant from Texas State University and her team, will continue dorm observations and coaching/mentoring of staff through August 31 to ensure fidelity of the model. Beginning the week of September 1-5, observations and training will take place on Hope/MHTP Dorm and implementation of the PBIS model will take place the week of September 15-19. ■

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit

As of August 29, Ron Jackson, Brownwood House, Evins, Tamayo House and McFadden Ranch have been audited for compliance to PREA standards. An interim report will be provided within the next 30 days on the audit findings. If any corrective actions are required, the agency will have up to 180 days to correct them. Facility administrators and senior staff believe that each facility will meet and exceed in many areas of the PREA Standards. ■

President's Call to Service Awards

The President's Volunteer Service Award is the premier volunteer awards program, encouraging United States citizens through presidential recognition to live a life of service. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation established the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to recognize and honor Americans who inspire others to engage in selfless service. The program continues as an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The most prestigious level of the President's Awards is the Call to Service Award recognizing a lifetime achievement of giving more than 4,000 hours of service to an organization. This is a monumental achievement and

the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and its two legacy agencies, has had only eight recipients since the year 2004. This year we have two recipients:



JAMES KIT DEAN

*Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex
and Brownwood Halfway House*

4,338 hours in service

James (Kit) Dean is a familiar face on the Ron Jackson campus and at the new Brownwood Halfway House. He volunteers at Epiphany Ministry events, mentors many individual youth, provides pastoral counseling, leads chapel services on several dorms, and facilitates faith-based anger management groups. Kit has been involved continuously since 2004 and has provided more than 4,338 hours of service. He became a volunteer after having been asked by friends to be part of Epiphany Ministries. In his own words, "It happened really fast because I felt an immediate connection with the youth. My greatest joy is seeing the youth change and watching their commitment to God grow." One of Kit's greatest treasures is a letter from a former youth that states, "Mr. Kit, you really do love and understand us. You help me to be able to read my Bible when I felt I wasn't worthy to own one." Kit is a passionate and dedicated volunteer whose love for our students and love of Christ shine through his faithful service.



JUDY DAVIS

Gainesville State School

4,770 hours of service

Judy Davis has been a volunteer at the Gainesville State School since 2002. She is a mentor, life skills teacher, Epiphany Ministry volunteer, grief counseling group leader, and treasurer of the Student Support Council. Judy provides re-entry support to youth leaving the facility and looks for opportunities for them to return to the facility as volunteers themselves. Judy works closely with last year's President's Call to Service award recipient Nancy Voss to lead the innovative "Good Grief" support group at the Gainesville facility. She helps TJJD youth during critical periods of personal loss by encouraging and supporting them. Judy is a faithful mentor and often is matched to several youth at a time. She begins working with many youth during the Epiphany Ministry weekend retreats and sustains these supportive relationships through faith-based mentoring. No matter what assignment Judy is given, she excels. She is reliable, compassionate, and incredibly hardworking. ■

Engaging Youth Through Performance-based Learning

Education is a vital component of the rehabilitation of each youth sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. However, developing a desire for academic success in youth who enter the system four to five years behind their peers in math and English is often a difficult task.

To improve youth's desire to learn, teachers at TJJD schools have implemented Project-based Learning (PBL) to demonstrate the importance of engaging the world around them. PBL is a dynamic classroom approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire deeper knowledge. Students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem or challenge and are allowed a "voice and choice" through a carefully planned, managed and assessed project.

TJJD educators schedule five weeklong PBLs throughout the school year. All lesson plans are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards and all grading rubrics support student progress toward earning credits.

There are eight essential elements of project based learning:

- **Significant Content**—derived from content standards and key concepts at the heart of the academic disciplines.
- **A Need to Know** – this is imperative so that the work is relevant and self-motivating.
- **Driving Question** – provides focus to capture the heart of the project in clear, compelling language, giving students a sense of purpose and challenge.
- **Student Voice and Choice** – this key element makes a project meaningful to students. Teachers may design the PBL, but in the actual work, they're facilitators only.
- **21st Century Competencies** – PBL projects give students opportunities to build 21st century competencies such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity/innovation, which will serve them well in the workplace and life.
- **In-Depth Inquiry** – this doesn't mean looking up info in books or websites and pasting it onto a poster. Students follow a trail that begins with their own questions, leads to a search for resources and the discovery of answers, ultimately generating new questions, testing ideas, and drawing their own conclusions.

- **Critique and Revision** – an important component of PBL is formalizing a process for critique and revision during a project to emphasize creating high-quality products and performances.
- **Public Audience** - each of the scheduled PBL weeks culminates with a Showcase, where every student presents and/or demonstrates finished products that exemplify their exploration of the guiding question.

A recent PBL was based on the guiding question, "What responsibility do we have to our environment?" Each of TJJD's five schools was assigned a continent and an associated ocean as their focus to explore this question. Teachers and students determined their finished products based on their exploration.

Here are some examples of the youth's finished presentations:



Students at Mart explored the impact of natural disasters for their assigned continent



Students have also studied the conditions of human rights for their assigned continent



This picture is from the Welding department at Giddings State School. Students were studying the natural resources of their assigned ocean and created a coral reef sculpture from scrap metal.

Another PBL revolved around the guiding question, “What would it take to own a business?” Students at every school chose to “build” a restaurant business to explore this question. In English, they created their menu; in Math, they created a spreadsheet with formulas for calculating profit margin; in Construction Tech, they designed blueprints and built a model of their actual building. The showcase at each campus culminated in every student presenting their business. One campus chose to build one restaurant and culminated in creating a restaurant day, serving food and waiting tables.

Model of restaurant designed and built by students.



As students and teachers continue to deepen their understanding of subjects and concepts through Project Based Learning, TJJD educators expect to see a continued rise in reading and math gains, as well as an increase in the number of diplomas and GEDs earned. ■



Gainesville Celebrity Waiters A Big Success

The Student Support Council for the Gainesville State School recently held their annual “Celebrity Wait” with a stellar roster of waiters. The waiters included: State Representative Drew Springer, TJJD Chairman of the Board Scott Fisher, Gainesville City Manager Barry Sullivan, Cooke County Sheriff Terry Gilbert, Director of Economic Development Kent Sharp, and Movie Producer Steve Riach. Many other popular Cooke county residents helped the cause with over \$2300 raised. The event was hosted by Sernas Mexican Cuisine.

The money raised will be used to purchase clothing, toiletries, and bags for youth; bus tickets for family members to visit youth; graduation supplies; meals for youth who leave campus to play sports such as football, incentives for youth, and many other needed items. ■

San Antonio Volunteers Honored

“Thanks a Latte for Being a Volunteer,” sponsored by Starbucks Coffee, was the theme for the Volunteer Council for Texas Youth in San Antonio annual volunteer appreciation luncheon. The VCTSA recognized and honored the numerous volunteers, organizations and sponsors who have assisted TJJD youth and staff and provided alternative resources to enable TJJD youth to become responsible and productive citizens.

This year’s guest speaker was James Williams, TJJD Sr. Director of Probation and Community Services and several co-presenters from San Antonio Parole District Office and Ayres House. The distinguished volunteers were treated to lunch from Luciano’s on the River Walk. They were also provided with TJJD gift bags courtesy and several raffle prizes were provided by Starbucks Coffee, LaQuinta Inn & Suites and Select FCU. ■



David Hill, president of the San Antonio NW Civil and Social Club (speaking) was honored as the Outstanding Community Supporter.



York House Youth Welcomes Spiritual Mentors

Youth and staff at York House were treated to a spiritual awakening on June 5 courtesy of the Ministry of the Third Cross (MOTTC) retreat. MOTTC is no stranger to TJJD but this event was their first ever spiritual retreat hosted at York House in Corpus Christi. The ministry organizers were amazed at the enthusiasm and full participation from every youth at the facility. One youth gave a testimonial of his life and how he wanted to better himself for his son. The retreat concluded with the MOTTC taking the youth to church services and a promise to return. ■

New TJJD Publication on Indigent Defense

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department – Legal Education and Technical Assistance Division recently completed an extensive revision to a 2007 publication on Texas' juvenile justice indigent defense system. The new publication, Indigent Defense in the Texas Juvenile Justice System, is once again a joint publication with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC). In addition to its new look, revisions include updates based on law changes and improved document flow.

The publication contains useful information for judges, attorneys, youth and families to assist in navigating the juvenile justice system including:

- Who Has a Right to an Attorney?
- When Should Counsel Be Appointed?
- What are the Time Limitations for Appointing Counsel?
- How are Attorneys Selected from the Appointment List?
- What Must a County Juvenile Board Include in its Juvenile Indigent Defense Plans?

This publication is available in the August TJJD Board Meeting Packet for informational purposes only (no board action or approval will be required). In addition, TJJD will be sending notice of the publication out to juvenile justice practitioners around the state and make it available on the TJJD website. ■



Ayres House Youth Hear From Former Football Great

Willie Mitchell, Director of San Antonio Fighting Back, addressed the Ayres House youth on being responsible citizens in the community. San Antonio Fighting Back promotes HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention in the San Antonio Community. Mr. Mitchell was a member of the Kansas City Chiefs when the team played in the first ever Super Bowl in NFL history. Each youth was given an autographed picture of Mr. Mitchell wearing his Kansas City Chief's uniform. ■

TJJD Youth Enter Artwork in Nationwide Contest

Thirteen TJJD youth from the Mart, Mart Residential Treatment Center, and Gainesville facilities recently submitted entries to the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators' (CJCA) National Art Context. Participants' submissions had to address the answer the questions, "What is leadership? How can positive leadership impact people? How can you become a leader among your family, friends and communities? All of the student's artwork was built around the theme of "Leadership."

CJCA is a national non-profit organization formed in 1994 to improve local juvenile correctional services, programs and practices, helping youth within the system succeed when they return to the community. CJCA also provides national leadership and leadership development for senior administrators responsible for these systems. CJCA represents the youth corrections CEOs in 50 states, Puerto Rico and major metropolitan counties

This is the first year TJJD students participated in this event. Winners will be announced in advance of CJCA's 20th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Program on October 2, 2014. ■







Pictured Left to right is new Academic Principal Andre Jenerson, Evins Superintendent Donald Brooks and Parole Officers Ricardo Leal and Efrain Garcia.

Parole Officers Honored At Evins

Employees at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center gathered in July to honor Parole Officers Ricardo Leal and Efrain Garcia as part of “Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week,” which is held every July by the American Probation and Parole Association. This year it ran from Sunday, July 13, through Saturday, July 19, 2014. The occasion also welcomed and introduced the new academic school principal, Andre Jenerson.

Evins Superintendent Donald Brooks said, “After release, they (parole officers) are a part of the team and work closely with us to provide services to the youth and families. They help make the transition to home easier and spend numerous hours working with the youth and families and staff to make things better. They are a strong link to our chain and play a vital role for the agency.”

Marissa Flores, Evins Family Liaison, said, “Parole Officers provide safety to the community by ensuring that our youth are successful after being released from a high security facility.”

The event sponsored by staff members at Evins included certificates of appreciation to the parole officers and plenty of food.

Parole Officer Ricardo Leal is a 30-year agency veteran and has worked in numerous positions throughout the agency. He has spent the last 20 years as a parole officer and was recently assigned to the Hidalgo County area.

“Helping families help themselves through resources that we are able to provide is very rewarding to me as a parole

officer for these kids,” said Mr. Leal. He went on to thank the staff at Evins for their gracious hospitality and mentioned that this was the first time that he knew that an institution would honor and host such an event for the local parole officers.

Parole Officer Efrain Garcia, now in his third year, covers Starr, Nueces, Cameron, Willacy, Kennedy and Jim Wells counties. He said, “Helping kids with their continued rehabilitation while in the community and seeing them overcome obstacles is what keeps me going.” ■

“Provider of the Year” Honored

TJJD held its Annual Contract Residential Provider Meeting in Austin on August 6 - 7. Each year during the conference, a “Provider of the Year” is honored based on TJJD Performance Measure Reports, Monitoring & Inspections Comprehensive Review Findings, Office of the Independent Ombudsman Report Findings, Serious/Critical/Alleged Mistreatment Incident Rates, Youth Grievance Rates, as well as Performance Improvement/Correction Action Plans issued throughout the fiscal year.

Garza County Regional Juvenile Center was selected as the Provider of the Year for FY’13. This program has been doing business with TYC/TJJD since 1998. Mike Breedlove, the Garza County Acting Facility Administrator, was on hand to receive the award, along with Tyrene Green, the former Facility Administrator in FY 2013. ■



From left to right: Youth Services Contract Manager Kimbla Newsom, TJJD Interim Executive Director David Reilly, Garza County Acting Facility Administrator Mike Breedlove, G4S-The Oaks Facility Administrator Tyrene Green, TJJD Director of State Programs and Services Teresa Stroud, TJJD Primary Service Worker Mike Lukowiak.



Family Day at McFadden Ranch 2014

Nearly 50 family members from as far away as Weslaco attended the 2014 McFadden Ranch Family Day in Roanoke, ensuring the event was a huge success. The day, which started at 9 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m., included a multitude of games, BBQ and a dunking booth.

More than 40 volunteers helped by cooking and serving the food, manning cotton candy, popcorn and Sno-Kone booths, and monitoring the old fashioned games such as Frisbee, miniature golf and washer toss. Many youth proudly introduced their mentors to family members.

Staff played a pivotal role in the event's success, ensuring youth safety, checking visitors and maintaining order throughout the day.

The McFadden Advisory Council was also well represented

as the Chairman Ernie Black, Co-Chair Jim Bob Bruce and Secretary Marilyn Christopherson were present and involved during the day.

TJJD guests included Rebecca Garza, Family Supports Administrator and Alsha Moon, Family Liaison, Gainesville State School, Billy Branch, Fort Worth Parole Office, and Y. Denise Caldwell, Community and Family Coordinator for Fort Worth.

Caldwell conducted a family session, entitled "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow," which provided tips to help families prepare for the day when their loved one return home and they are reunited at last.

"It went well," said Superintendent Jimmie Prince. "There were numerous families and volunteers and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves." ■



Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since June 2014. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

July 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
Allison R. Bassler	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Cecilie B. Hyman	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Herina C. Kirven	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Richard J. Williamson	<i>Gainesville</i>
Robert O. Walker	<i>Austin (Chief of Staff)</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Claburn L. Gunter	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
David R. Parsons III	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Joe Pichardo	<i>Austin (Administration & Training)</i>
LeeRoy Diaz	<i>Evins</i>
Paul E. Krzeszewski	<i>Evins</i>
Raul R. Cantu	<i>Evins</i>
Susan R. Fields	<i>Austin (Administration & Training)</i>
Vicente Martinez Jr.	<i>Austin (Administration & Training)</i>
William C. White	<i>McLennan RTC</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Bennie E. Scott Jr.	<i>Giddings</i>
Christine Riggs	<i>Austin (Chief of Staff)</i>
Gerardo Penuelas	<i>Tamayo HWH</i>
Latonya Y. Ferrell	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>
Orlando A. Winston	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Travis E. Steakley	<i>Giddings</i>
Vernon L. Fulbright	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Boris L. Jumper	<i>Giddings</i>
Gregory Lawrence	<i>Dallas DO</i>
Jackie L. Galloway	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Sherri L. Maultsby	<i>Austin (Administration & Training)</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Rauslyn R. Canady	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
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August 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
Christopher D. Huggins	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Colleen G. Buck	<i>Austin (State Programs & Facilities)</i>
Jessica D. Aultman	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Michelle Y. Araguz	<i>Evins</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Alfredo Rodriguez Jr.	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Arline Jackson	<i>Giddings</i>
Graciela Ramon	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Horace D. Harrison	<i>Giddings</i>
Jeremy D. Earl	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Jessica K. Retzlaff	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Roderick E. Brown	<i>Gainesville</i>
Shirley W. Garcia	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Amanda R. Lopez	<i>Austin (Education Services)</i>
Jesus Esparza	<i>Evins</i>
Mary G. Glover	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Vickie W. Griffin	<i>Ft Worth DO</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Jerry E. Anderson	<i>Giddings</i>
Johnny L. Thomas	<i>Austin (Inspector General)</i>
Kathy Thomas	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Linda G. Green	<i>Austin (Administration & Training)</i>
Tim A. Trigg	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Timothy D. Barr	<i>Giddings</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Linda G. Smith	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
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